



Grade 12

NAEP 2007 in Your School

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or The Nation's Report Card, is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

- It's the only *nationally representative assessment* of what America's students know and can do in core subjects like reading, writing, mathematics and science.
- The schools and students who participate in the test represent hundreds of schools and students across the country.
- NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its impeccable technical quality. The assessment frameworks are developed with input from assessment specialists, education experts, teachers and content specialists from around the nation.
- For twelfth-grade, NAEP reports on student achievement nationally and monitors student progress over time.

NAEP will be administered in your school between January 22 and March 2, 2007 to a sample of twelfth-grade students. Students will be assessed in either writing or reading.

This fact sheet provides some important information that you need to know to prepare your school and students for participation. Strategies that have been effective in encouraging and motivating students to participate and do their best in the assessment will be provided later this summer in a guide titled "Best Practices for Improving Twelfth-Grade NAEP Participation."

What is involved?

Students will spend about 90 minutes participating, including answering questions in one subject area and completing background questions. The background questions are designed to gather information about the types of educational experiences that may be related to performance, such as homework and reading habits.

Additional questions are asked of teachers of selected students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) who are participating in NAEP.

How many students are assessed?

Nationally, about 22,000 students will be assessed at the twelfth-grade level. Approximately 71 twelfth-grade students in your school will be assessed.

What are the responsibilities of the school staff?

A staff person in your school will need to be assigned as the School Coordinator. That person and the principal will work with the NAEP Staff who are responsible for conducting the assessment.

What are the responsibilities of the NAEP State Coordinator and NAEP Staff?

The NAEP State Coordinator works at your State Department of Education and will be responsible for:

- Working with schools to confirm the assessment date;
- Visiting or communicating with principals, in the summer, to convey facts about NAEP and the importance of student participation;
- Providing schools, in the fall, with instructions for preparing a list of grade-eligible students (if required) and information about notifying parents of participating students; and
- Responding to questions from the school community throughout the assessment period.

NAEP Staff members are employed by a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) contractor (not by your State Department of Education) to work directly with schools and will be responsible for:

- Selecting a random sample of students from the school list of twelfth-grade students;
- Sending a preassessment packet of information to the School Coordinator in early January;
- Visiting the School Coordinator shortly after the preassessment packet is received to finalize assessment arrangements;
- Bringing all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day; and
- Conducting the assessment.

What are the responsibilities of the principal and School Coordinator?

Each principal will assign a School Coordinator to serve as the primary contact for the NAEP assessment. To prepare for NAEP, principals will be responsible for:

- Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the assessment date remains convenient for the school;
- Empowering the designated School Coordinator to work with the NAEP Staff and the NAEP State Coordinator to prepare for the assessment; and
- Informing school staff about NAEP and why student participation is critically important.

The School Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Confirming with the NAEP State Coordinator that the suggested assessment date is convenient for the school. Schools can change that date if necessary;
- If requested, providing the NAEP State Coordinator with a list of grade-eligible students; and
- Informing parents of the assessment. The NAEP State Coordinator will provide additional information about how this should be accomplished.

Before the assessment date, the School Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Receiving the preassessment packet and beginning final preparations for the assessment;
- Meeting with the NAEP Staff during the scheduled preassessment visit; and
- Ensuring that there is a plan with school staff to achieve high participation of students at the session.

Detailed information about the School Coordinator's responsibilities will be sent in the fall.



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